

Incoming President's Speech

It is an honour to be elected as President and being the first President from Africa it is also an honour for the Africa Section. Africa is a continent with a strong reliance on the IGB.

We have a critical job ahead of us. Foundation has been very well laid by my predecessor. I believe that John Andrews has been an excellent President and spent an enormous amount of time and energy in spreading the message world wide. As a result of that we have:

- Reorganised Council to give much more direction and input from the Sections
- The sub-committee system has been formalised and is working well
- The E&T sub-committee reflects input from brewing companies
- We have a strategic plan, which I think reflects future priorities and will hopefully keep the IGB focused into the future.
- Finances are looking better but still have a way to go
- However, membership numbers are variable and too many members resign after completing their examinations

What do we need to do?

- The key issue is to increase membership
- Many of the above initiatives are aimed at exactly this
- We need to achieve critical mass in many of them

As President, I will focus on “putting to bed” some of the initiatives that my predecessors have started, with particular emphasis on:

- The examination portfolio, both in content and title – we must make the IGB examination portfolio into a desirable feature of a brewer's career
- Ensuring alignment between the IGB Sections and Council
- Progressing the distilling initiative

These initiatives, as always, will need much personal commitment, and I will do what I can to support you.

Finally, I look forward to support from Clarges Street, Council and all of the other major players in the IGB.

I would now like to present this engraved silver tankard to Dr John Andrews, as thanks for his year as IGB President.

Gordon Den
President, Institute & Guild of Brewing
1st July 2003